REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated December 13, 2010. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the patent application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.113.

Summary of the Examiner's rejections

Claims 37-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Barker (US 6,363,421 B2).

Summary of claim amendments

Applicant has amended independent claims 37, 51 and 62 where the support for the amendments can be found in paragraphs [0011], [0012], [0016], [0046], and [0049] of the originally filed PCT patent application. No new subject matter has been added.

Remarks regarding the §102 rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claim 37 is patentable in view of Barker. The amended independent claim 37 recites the following:

> 37. A hardware-containing apparatus for mediating in management orders between a plurality of origin managing devices and a plurality of managed devices in a telecommunications system, the management orders intended to execute management operations over the managed devices, comprising:
>
> a communication receiver component arranged to receive a management order from one of the origin managing devices;
>
> a management verifier component arranged to determine whether the received management order is an allowed management order by checking whether content of the received management order fits access attributes comprised in a first management access template in relationship with an identifier of the origin managing device[, a second management access template in relationship with an identifier of a managed data object affected by the management order, and a third management access template in relationship with an identifier of a managed device affected by the management order;
>
> a communication sender component arranged to send an allowed management order to a managed device; and
>
> the hardware-containing apparatus is interposed between the plurality of origin managing devices and the plurality of managed devices so as to receive management orders from the plurality of origin managing devices and issue allowed management orders to the plurality of managed devices (emphasis added).

The claimed hardware-containing apparatus functions to mediate management orders between a plurality of origin managing devices and a plurality of managed devices. In particular, the claimed hardware-containing apparatus receives a management order from an origin managing device and then determines if the received management order is an allowed management order and if it is an allowed management order then the claimed apparatus sends the allowed management order to a managed device. To accomplish this, the claimed hardware-containing apparatus includes a management verifier component that is arranged to determine whether the received management order is an allowed management order by checking whether content of the received management order fits a first management access template in relationship with an identifier of the origin managing device, a second management access template in relationship with an identifier of a managed data object affected by the management order, and a third management access template in relationship with an identifier of a managed device affected by the management order. The claimed hardware-containing apparatus and in particular the claimed management verifier component as discussed below is not disclosed or suggested by Barker.

Barker discloses a method for computer internet remote management of a telecommunication network element. In particular, Barker discloses the following:

> In accordance with the invention, a method is provided for remotely managing a network element of a telecommunications network through a special communication link including a computer internet. A management computer is connected to an element management system server through a communication link including a computer internet. At least one of the plurality of network elements is also coupled to the element management server through the computer internet and the at least one of the plurality of network elements is managed via communications conveyed through the element management server between the management computer and the at least one network element.
>
> Preferably, management is facilitated by the management server generating an interactive web page at a client workstation with objects associated with management of the at least one network element. The interactive web page is transmitting from the management server through the computer internet to the management computer and displayed at the interactive web page at the management computer for management communications between the management computer and the network element. Objects of the interactive web

page include objects associated with preferably all three of operation, administration and maintenance of the network element.

(see col. 1, lines 24-47)

As can be seen, Barker's client workstation uses objects in an interactive web page (provided by the management server) to manage the operation, administration, and maintenance of the network elements. The client workstation upon startup must register with the management server by providing identification of the client host, port, client, and a password. The management server then retrieves the client record from local data services and returns a session object to the client noting the client workstation's access permissions. This information may be used to provide some level of access control in the client application (e.g., deactivating menu element management system for maintenance operations that are not allowed) (see col. 30, lines 45-63). Hence, Barker relies on the "client workstation" (i.e. "origin managing device") to obey the received "access control" information and implement internal mechanisms in the received "interactive web page" for preventing within the client workstation the issuance of not allowed management orders to network elements. However, these are not features of the claimed hardware-containing apparatus that checks the content of a received management order from an origin managing device (e.g. "client workstation"), to prevent, either or both: malicious or malfunctioning "origin managing devices" (e.g., "client workstations") to issue not allowed management orders to managed devices (e.g., network elements). Further, features of the claimed hardware-containing apparatus provide a solution that does not put configuration requirements within the "origin managing devices" (e.g., "client workstations"), since the conditions for a proper management order to be sent towards its destination are always checked by the claimed management verifier component.

Applicant does acknowledge that Barker discloses that "In any case, all client requests are validated at the server" (col. 30 lines 55-56). However, Barker does not disclose the claimed management verifier component that checks whether the **content** of a received management order fits access attributes comprised in the **three management access templates**. Barker does appear to disclose the management

server checking a "first template in relationship with the identifier of the origin managing device" at reception of a management order; for example: col. 30 lines 58-60 discloses checking access permissions related to the session (refers to the session through which a management order is received, and a session identifier is an element that can be implicitly/explicitly contained within a management order). However, Barker does not disclose or suggest any of the other **two management access templates**.

Applicant does realize that the Examiner cited several sections of Barker and contended that those sections disclosed the other **two management access templates**. In particular, the Examiner contended that Barker's FIGs. 3-4 combined and col. 13, lines 45-col. 14, line 60 disclosed the claimed second management access template and Barker's FIGs. 3-4 combined, col. 11, lines 47-60 disclosed the claimed third management access template (see pages 4-5 of Final Office Action). However, all of the cited Barker sections relate to "defining objects" which are part of the interactive web page that is provided to the client workstations by the management server. The client workstations then uses the objects in the interactive web page to manage the operation, administration, and maintenance of the network elements. Hence, Barker's management server does not disclose the claimed management verifier component that determines whether the received management order is an allowed management order by checking whether content of the received management order fits **three management access templates**. In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent claim 37 and the corresponding dependent claims 38-50 are patentable in view of Barker.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 51 and 62 are also patentable in view of Barker. The amended independent claims 51 and 62 recite the same or similar distinguishing limitations that have been discussed above with respect to the amended independent claim 37. As such, the aforementioned remarks regarding the patentability of the amended independent claim 37 apply as well to the amended independent claims 51 and 62. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the amended independent claims 51 and 62 and their corresponding dependent claims 52-61 and 63-72.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the application to be in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 37-72.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees for this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1379.

Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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